

**DJ Carella**

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**From:** Zach Lowe  
**Sent:** Monday, October 03, 2011 3:47 PM  
**To:** 'Jennifer Cooke'; 'tsanderson@csis.org'; 'Farha Tahir'; 'Richard Downie'  
**Subject:** President Kibaki op-ed

Jennifer, Richard, Tom and Farha,

I wanted to pass along this op-ed in *Foreign Affairs* written by President Mwai Kibaki about the situation in East Africa and how the emergency also presents an opportunity. As you can see, our discussion touched on many of the issues President Kibaki outlines in the piece. And once again, we greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and hear your insights on such a pressing matter.

The piece, pasted below, can also be found [here](#).

Thanks again,

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**FOREIGN  
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In the Crisis, There is an Opportunity for East Africa  
By [Mwai Kibaki](#)  
September 30, 2011

*MWAI KIBAKI is the President of Kenya.*

East Africa and the Horn of Africa are experiencing a devastating drought -- the worst in 60 years. This emergency presents both a challenge and an opportunity. The United Nations estimates that 750,000 people in Somalia alone could die without assistance. Providing that aid is an opportunity to usher in a new day in Somalia, thus alleviating one of East Africa's most enduring problems.

Africa could be opening a new chapter. The economies of many African countries are growing, and investor interest in the continent is rising all the time. Many countries have implemented economic and political reforms to enhance openness and transparency. Last month, for example, Kenya celebrated the first anniversary of the adoption of its new constitution, which decentralized power, reformed the administrative bureaucracy, and improved governance.

Just a few months ago, the continent successfully witnessed the creation of a new country, South Sudan. African countries, including Kenya, played impressive diplomatic roles in the process and provided on-the-ground

logistical assistance.(As of this writing, there are still thousands of Kenyan civil servants helping to build a new government in Juba.)

The same intense effort is now needed in Somalia. The famine is more than a natural disaster. It is a result of the inability of Somalia's principal political actors to end inaction, division, and war. This is a moment of inflection for the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), as it has a unique opportunity to prove to the international community its determination to ensure that better days await Somalia.

Of course, Somalia cannot succeed without the help of its neighbors. Together, African countries should develop a long-term strategy for stabilizing Somalia and the region. In addition, any dialogue should include important new players such as Turkey. Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's August visit to Mogadishu was the first by a non-African head of government in years. The visit was powerfully symbolic and brought much-needed attention to the situation.

Four important activities could help push Somalia in the right direction. First, the 1991 Djibouti initiative for Somali reconciliation should be refreshed. It bore no fruit a decade ago but was an important first step toward lasting peace. A new round of talks should recognize that ethnic and tribal differences in Somalia are not easily bridgeable. Thus, efforts to support and reform the TFG must be accompanied by a determined effort to decentralize power to Somalia's different ethnicities and geographies.

Second, the African Union Mission in Somalia should be granted more troops. Ensuring stability in Somalia will require better security. The United Nations has already authorized an additional 3,000 troops to the region. Those troops are urgently needed but have yet to be deployed.

Somalia's current crisis has escalated because of decades of food insecurity. Delegates attending a recent international conference on food in Nairobi passed resolutions calling for the provision of money, expertise, materials, and know-how to revolutionize food production in Somalia within a decade. Third, José Graziano da Silva, the newly elected director-general of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, should continue making Somalia his foremost priority.

Finally, the international community must open refugee camps within Somalia's borders. By establishing a presence there, more people will be able to reach relief faster. Such camps would also reduce the dangers associated with large migrations. In recent months, the population of Kenya's Dadaab refugee camp has risen by 150,000. The camp, designed to hold 90,000, is now home to half a million, making it the largest refugee camp on Earth. Many of Somalia's famine-related deaths have occurred on the long trek toward Dadaab camp.

The recent withdrawal by al Shabab from the Somali capital of Mogadishu presents a critical opportunity for the international community to renew its efforts. Having denied relief groups access to the affected regions of Somalia and jeopardizing millions of lives, al Shabaab is losing support fast. Of course, al Shabaab is not the root of the problem, but its absence will be helpful.

In Somalia, the world has an opportunity to do more than alleviate a human tragedy. Somalia's past has left a long legacy of frustration. The future can be different. Any plan that holistically addresses Somalia's problems may not, sadly, save every life in this famine. But it may give Somalia a better future than its past.

**DJ Carella**

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**From:** Zach Lowe  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2011 6:34 PM  
**To:** Zach Lowe  
**Subject:** Kenya and the United Nations General Assembly

Good afternoon,

My name is Zach Lowe and I work with the Government of Kenya here in Washington, D.C. With the United Nations General Assembly in full swing next week, I wanted to offer myself as a resource to connect with the Kenyan delegation. With the ongoing humanitarian crisis in East Africa, the danger posed by al Shabaab and continued instability in Somalia, and the birth of South Sudan, Kenya is deeply involved in several issues in a critical part of the world. Among the high-ranking officials in the Kenyan delegation is Kenyan Foreign Minister, **Moses Wetangula**. I would be happy to connect with you to Mr. Wetangula to discuss these or other issues.

Additionally, Kenya is involved in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), which **President Obama** is scheduled to launch on Tuesday in New York. The initiative is designed to secure commitments from nations to embrace open government and make information, such as census data, government expenditure and parliamentary proceedings free and accessible online. Kenya is one of the nations involved and, in fact, is the only sub-Saharan nation to launch its own open data initiative. Kenya's Permanent Secretary of Information and Communications, **Dr. Bitange Ndemo** is participating in the launch and is available Monday afternoon and Tuesday to discuss the OGP and Kenya's efforts to be more transparent and accountable since the adoption of its new Constitution last year. While he is only in New York for a brief amount of time, I would be happy to try and make him available for an interview on the OGP.

If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact me. Also, if you have Kenya-related questions on other UNGA-related topics, feel free to contact me, as well.

Thanks,

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- Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen) will work with an international consortium to build a 280 megawatt geothermal plant named Olkaria IV, which is expected to be operational in 2014.
- The project, which enjoys international investment from the likes of The World Bank, Germany's Development Bank KfW and the European Investment Bank, will help diversify Kenya's energy base and reduce the country's reliance on hydroelectric dams, whose output can drop during droughts.
- Already the first African country to drill for geothermal power, Kenya has set a goal of producing at least 5,000 megawatts of geothermal power by 2030.

Source: Reuters



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## Why Kenya? | An attractive partner in trade

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← U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton meets Kenyan Foreign Minister Mutahi Ngunyi during a trip to Kenya

*"Kenya's profile as a hub for the regional markets has brightened with the new integration arrangements that have come through."*

- » Kenya is a WTO member and has signed bilateral trade agreements with more than 20 countries around the world, including Argentina, China, Egypt, India, the Netherlands, Poland, Thailand, Tanzania and South Korea.
- » Through the African Growth and Opportunity Act, Kenyan-manufactured products like textiles and apparels qualify for duty free access to the United States market.
- » Under the Generalized System of Preferences, a wide range of Kenya's manufactured products are entitled to preferential duty treatment in the United States, Japan, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Austria and other European countries.

Source: Business Daily

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